

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition method comprising:

sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information and content attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data;

receiving via a proxy device said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device in response to the content data request, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is removed from said content identification information and content attribute information when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, said receiving via a proxy device including receiving said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said proxy device complying with an HTTP standard except that a file size is never removed from the acquire/use file when passing the acquire/use file through the proxy device;

sending content request information requesting said content data from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file; and

receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition method according to claim 1, wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content data includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition method according to claim 2, further comprising:

comparing said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with a free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception; and

notifying a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition method according to claim 2, further comprising:

comparing the data size of received content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and determining whether the content data has been successfully received.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition method according to claim 2, wherein:

said acquire/use file stores said content identification information and said attribute information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An acquire/use information providing method comprising:

receiving file request information requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information and content attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and

sending via a proxy device to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content identification information and the attribute information of the content, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is removed from said content identification information and content attribute information when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, in response to the received file request information, said sending including sending said acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), said proxy device complying with an HTTP standard except that a file size is never removed from the acquire/use file when passing the acquire/use file through the proxy device.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The acquire/use information providing method according to claim 6, wherein said attribute information corresponding to said content data includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The acquire/use information providing method according to claim 7, wherein said acquire/use file stores said content identification information and said data size information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition device comprising:
a file request information sending unit configured to send file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information and content attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data;

an information receiving unit configured to receive via a proxy device said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute

information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device in response to the content data request, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is removed from said content identification information and content attribute information when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, said information receiving unit configured to receive said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said proxy device complying with an HTTP standard except that a file size is never removed from the acquire/use file when passing the acquire/use file through the proxy device;

a content request information sending unit configured to send content request information requesting said content data from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file; and

a content receiving unit configured to receive said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition device according to claim 9, wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content data includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, further comprising:

a comparison unit configured to compare the data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file with a free space of a recording media to be used to record said content data upon reception; and

a notification unit configured to notify a lack of said free space in said recording media for storing the content data if said free space in said recording media is insufficient.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, further comprising:

a determination unit configured to compare the data size of received content data with said data size information of said content data contained in said acquire/use file, and determine whether the content data has been successfully received.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition device according to claim 10, wherein:

said acquire/use file stores said content identification information and said attribute information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An acquire/use information providing device comprising:

a request information receiving unit configured to request an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information and content attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and

an information sending unit configured to send via a proxy device to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content identification information and the attribute information of the content, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is removed from said content identification information and content attribute

information when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, said information sending unit configured to send the acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), said proxy device complying with an HTTP standard except that a file size is never removed from the acquire/use file when passing the acquire/use file through the proxy device.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The acquire/use information providing device according to claim 14, wherein the attribute information corresponding to said content includes data size information of said content data.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The acquire/use information providing device according to claim 14, wherein said acquire/use file stores said content identification information and said data size information of said content data in its main section.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A computer readable recording medium storing a program, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a procedure comprising:

sending file request information that requests an acquire/use file storing acquire/use content identification information and content attribute information, to an acquire/use information providing device in response to a request for content data;

receiving via a proxy device said acquire/use file that stores the content identification information and said attribute information of said content data sent by said acquire/use information providing device in response to the content data request, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is removed from said content identification information and content attribute

information when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, said receiving via a proxy device including receiving said acquire/use file sent in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) from said acquire/use information providing device, said proxy device complying with an HTTP standard except that a file size is never removed from the acquire/use file when passing the acquire/use file through the proxy device;

sending content request information requesting said content data from a content providing device according to said acquire/use information contained in said acquire/use file; and

receiving said content data sent by said content providing device in response to the transmission of said content request information.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A computer readable recording medium storing a program which when executed by a processor causes the processor to execute a procedure comprising:

receiving file request information requesting an acquire/use file that stores acquire/use content identification information and content attribute information of content data, sent by a content acquisition device in response to a request for the content data by a content data acquisition device; and

sending via a proxy device to said content acquisition device, said acquire/use file that stores content data content identification information and the attribute information of the content, said content identification information and content attribute information are stored in a data area such that no information is removed from said content identification information and content attribute information when the acquire/use file passes through said proxy device, in response to the received file request information, said sending including sending said acquire/use file in compliance with HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), said proxy device

complying with an HTTP standard except that a file size is never removed from the
acquire/use file when passing the acquire/use file through the proxy device.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition method according to claim
1, wherein the content data is an audio file.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The content acquisition method according to claim
1, wherein the content data is a music file.